

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

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CSAF WASHDC

USNMR SHAPE

USCINCEUR

CINCUSAFE

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

S E C R E T NOFORM USNATO 4617

E.O. 11652: 31-12-81

TAGS: MCAP, NATO, NL

SUBJECT: NATO SPECIALIZATION STUDY - AIR FORCE SUB-GROUP

REF: A. USNATO 4219

B. US NATO 4367

SUMMARY: THIRD MEETING OF AIR SUB-GROUP DEVOTED PRIMARILY TO REVIEWING DRAFT REPORTS AND DEVELOPING RATIONALE INDICATING THAT IMPLICATIONS TO OTHER NATIONS OF NETHERLANDS AIR FORCE SPECIALIZATION WILL BE MINIMUM. USNATO RECOMMENDS U.S. AGREE AND SUPPORT SUB-GROUP SELECTION OF OPTION 2. ACTION REQUESTED: WASHINGTON GUIDANCE BY 16 OCTOBER 1973. END SUMMARY.

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1. THE AIR FORCE SPECIALIZATION SUB-GROUP HELD ITS THIRD MEETING ON 26 SEPTEMBER 1973. GROUP DISCUSSED 1 OCTOBER ORAL REPORT TO STEERING GROUP BY CHAIRMAN AND REVIEWED NEARLY COMPLETE DRAFTS OF TWO DOCUMENTS WHICH WILL BE GROUP'S FINAL REPORT AND ATTACHMENT

(POUCHED TO OASD/ISA). FINAL TWO SUB-GROUP MEETINGS ARE SCHEDULED FOR 16 AND 22 OCTOBER.

2. AS REPORTED IN REFERENCE B, AIR SUB-GROUP HAS SELECTED OPTION 2, "CONVENTIONAL OFFENSIVE AIR OPERATIONS WITH A CAPABILITY FOR LIMITED AIR SUPERIORITY AND A LIMITED NUCLEAR CAPABILITY" TO RECOMMEND FOR ROYAL NETHERLANDS AIR FORCE (RNLAf) SPECIALIZATION.

BULK OF MEETING WAS SPENT DISCUSSING ARGUMENTS/RATIONALE CONCERNING IMPLICATIONS TO OTHER NATIONS OF DUTCH AIR FORCE SPECIALIZATION. BRIEFLY, AIR SUB-GROUP ARGUMENTS WILL BE AS FOLLOWS:

A. ALL WEATHER DEFENSE (AWX): QUALITATIVE AWX FORCE IMPROVEMENTS BY OTHER CENTRAL REGION NATIONS (I.E. REPLACEMENTS OF FRG F-104S AND UK LIGHTNINGS WITH F-4S AND US F-4S WITH F-15S) PLUS QUANTITATIVE IMPROVEMENTS (I.E. ADDITION OF 3 US F-15 SQUADRONS TO RAPID REACTION FORCES) IN THE DPQ WILL MINIMIZE IMPLICATIONS OF CHANGED ROLES OF TWO DUTCH AWX SQUADRONS.

B. DEEP PENETRATION: QUALITATIVE IMPROVEMENTS IN DEEP PENETRATION CAPABILITY (I.E. INTRODUCTION OF THE MRCA BY FRG AND UK) PLUS REDISTRIBUTION OF TARGETS (NUCLEAR AND CONVENTIONAL) FAVORING THE RNLAf WITH THE NEARER ONES, WILL MINIMIZE IMPLICATIONS OF LOSS OF DEEP PENETRATION CAPABILITY IN 2 DUTCH FBS/FBA SQUADRONS.

C. REPORT WILL GO ON TO ARGUE THAT RNLAf SPECIALIZATION ALONG THE LINES OF OPTION 2 WILL RESULT IN INCREASED CONTRIBUTIONS IN CONVENTIONAL AIR OPERATIONAL CAPABILITY, INCLUDING LIMITED AIR SUPERIORITY, AND IN PARTICULAR, WILL PARTIALLY OFFSET THE "DEFICIENCY" IN CONVENTIONAL CAPABILITY CAUSED BY REPLACEMENT OF A NUMBER OF U.S. MULTI-ROLE SQUADRONS (AWX OR FBS WITH SECONDARY FBA TASK) WITH PURE AWX UNITS.

3. COVER LETTER ON POUCHED DRAFTS (PARAGRAPH 1 ABOVE) REQUESTS WASHINGTON COMMENTS/GUIDANCE ON DRAFT FINAL REPORT BY 16 OCTOBER 1973. LETTER WAS SENT SEPTEMBER 27, BY APO AIR MAIL, IN BOX
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REGISTRATION NO. 3003.

4. MISSION BELIEVES OPTION TWO WOULD RESULT IN GREATER OVERALL RNLAf AIR CAPABILITY THAN ANY OTHER PRACTICAL ALTERNATIVE. IN ADDITION, IT SHOULD IMPROVE THE PROBABILITY OF REPLACEMENT OF RNLAf F-104S WITH U.S. MULTI-ROLE AIRCRAFT. THEREFORE, RECOMMEND U.S. SUPPORT SELECTION AND RECOMMENDATION OF OPTION 2 FOR RNLAf SPECIALIZATION. MISSION WILL CONTINUE TO PUSH FOR BROADER FOLLOW-ON AIR SPECIALIZATION STUDIES ALONG THE LINE OF ORIGINAL U.S. OBJECTIVES.
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BRUSSELS
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